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10/085,310

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12/15/2003

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EXAMINER

ABDULSELAM, ABBAS I

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2674

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/085,310

Applicant(s)

FRASER ET AL.

Examiner

Abbas I Abdulsalam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 and 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyerson et al. (USPN 5579487).

Regarding claims 1, 22, and 26, Meyerson teaches a configurable electronic work slate unit with a changeable complement of removable modules. As shown in Fig. 8, Meyerson illustrates a front view showing frontal display (64a) within shell unit (68a) (Fig. 8a), and discloses that the display (64a) is planar and is in the form of removable sheet unit. See col. 9, lines 57-67, col. 10, lines 6-7 and Fig. 8. Meyerson teaches that the removable display (64a), a processor/memory (66a) and the power units (67) each incorporate a standardized sheet interface (203) configured to cooperate with any one of the standardized frame interfaces (196) included within shell unit (68a). See col. 10, lines 60-65, col. 11, lines 15-20 and Fig. 11. Meyerson discloses connectors functioning as interfaces (198, 204) can provide signal-coupling paths including data port and control port paths. See col. 11, lines 39-45. Moreover, Meyerson teaches that each standardized interface is arranged to provide at least one signal-coupling path, which is usable to enable the processor element (CPU) of the slate unit to identify the particular type of each removable module. See col. 11, lines 29-45. Meyerson teaches that the processor/memory

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unit (66a) is enabled using known networking and control techniques to communicate with the display unit (64a). See col. 11, lines 47-53. Furthermore, Meyerson teaches that each removable module also includes some provision for enabling its type to be identified using codes or other identifiers. See col. 14, lines 54-65. Meyerson does not specifically teach a “first communication interface” and a “second communication interface” However as mentioned above Meyerson does teach standardized sheet interface (203) cooperating with any of the frame interface (196) as shown in Fig. 11.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize Meyerson’s interfacing for the purpose of communicating among the components within the electronic work slate unit. One would have been motivated in view of Meyerson that the interfacing as configured in Fig. 11 can be equivalently used to meet the desired first and second communication interfaces.

Additionally, in regard claims 22 and 26, as mentioned above, Meyerson teaches that the processor/memory unit (66a) is enabled using known networking and control techniques to communicate with the display unit (64a). Furthermore, Meyerson teaches that each removable module also includes some provision for enabling its type to be identified using codes or other identifiers. See col. 14, lines 54-65. It would have been obvious that that communication between the processor and the display unit can be indicative of the properties of the display unit.

Regarding claim 2, Meyerson teaches that electrical coupling is suitably provided by various connections including optical, radio, capacitive or other coupling arrangements. See col. 10, lines 17-20. Meyerson also teaches the use of removable module with respect to elements of

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the electronic unit to enable communication with the module by the use of appropriate protocol.

See col. 14, lines 63-67.

Regarding claims 3, 6-7 and 24, Meyerson teaches the use of a display (50) system including the liquid crystal technology. See col. 6, lines 33-35. See Fig. 1 (50).

Regarding claims 4-5, Meyerson teaches the use of frontal display (64a) and is in the form of removable sheet. See col. 10, lines 4-7.

Regarding claims 8-14, 23, and 25 Meyerson teaches the use of interfaces to one or more standard removable models including displays of various types. See col. 15, lines 22-28.

Regarding claims 27-28, Meyerson teaches that the processor/memory unit (66a) is enabled using known networking and control techniques to communicate with the display unit (64a). See col. 11, lines 47-53.

Regarding claim 29, Meyerson discloses that the display (64a) is planar and is in the form of removable sheet unit. See col. 10, lines 6-7 and Fig. 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meyerson et al. (USPN 5579487).

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Regarding claim 15, Meyerson discloses a front view showing frontal display (64a) within shell unit (68a) (Fig. 8a), and discloses that the display (64a) is planar and is in the form of removable sheet unit. See col. 9, lines 57-67, col. 10, lines 6-7 and Fig. 8. Meyerson teaches that the removable display (64a), a processor/memory (66a) and the power units (67) each incorporate a standardized sheet interface (203) configured to cooperate with any one of the standardized frame interfaces (196) included within shell unit (68a). See col. 10, lines 60-65, col. 11, lines 15-20 and Fig. 11. Meyerson discloses connectors functioning as interfaces (198, 204) can provide signal-coupling paths including data port and control port paths. See col. 11, lines 39-45.

Regarding claims 16 and 19, Meyerson teaches that the processor/memory unit (66a) is enabled using known networking and control techniques to communicate with the display unit (64a). See col. 11, lines 47-53.

Regarding claims 17-18, Meyerson teaches that each removable module also includes some provision for enabling its type to be identified using codes or other identifiers. See col. 14, lines 54-65.

Regarding claim 20, Meyerson teaches an antenna module (146) providing a communication when radio transceiver (134) is utilized. See Fig. 6 (134).

Regarding claim 21, Meyerson teaches an antenna module (146) providing a communication when WAN transceiver (136) is utilized. See Fig. 6 (136).

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Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered to applicant's disclosure.

The following arts are cited for further reference.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,953,734 to Tanaka

U.S. Pat. No. 5,781,177 to Helot et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,639,790 to Tsai et al.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to **Abbas Abduselam** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-8591**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richard Hjerpe**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4709**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology center 2600 customer Service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Abbas Abdulsalam

Examiner

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12/01/03



RICHARD HUERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600